

Friday, October 27, 1944

My Darling;

Today is a month on the water and I think that we are threatened with an early end to this odyssey of ours. I celebrated by doing my laundry, and there was plenty of it to do. I dragged out my scrubbing brush and went to town. There was a big board laying around so I used it to scrub the clothes on. The soap I used was granulated salt water soap and that stuff would lather in anything. I did a fairly good job but it was tiring. More work than I'd done in years.

Never in all the time I've been in the army have I seen so much stuff stolen as has been stolen around here lately. You can't leave a thing laying around but what someone picks it up. As I told you, my new swimming trunks were stolen and the fellow next to me had a razor and soap dish stolen from him. Jack Vrien lost a whole box of V-Mail stationery. I'd like to find out just who is responsible. This morning I went in to shower and when I came out my towel was gone from the bar where I'd hung it. I looked all around and couldn't find it ~~there~~ and suddenly spied some fellow shaving. He had a towel suspiciously like mine so I asked him if it was his. He said that it was and went on shaving. Then I noticed my laundry mark on the towel and told him so. He got quite red and said that he must've taken it by mistake. This was highly unlikely, however, since there was no other towel of any description around for him to have mistaken it for. I just let it go at that since I got the towel back.

A tuna fish just started to leap around out in the water. They can really jump quite a way out. This one must have gone about four feet or more into the air. There were also some gulls eating flying fish. Some of them got the fish on the fly. It's fun to watch fish and birds because they are quite interesting. It also passes the time of day.

A rash has broken out on the lower part of my back. I think it is prickly heat. It's a darned nuisance but I guess there's nothing much I can do about it. I'll put some alcohol on it and try to get some powder from the dispensary to keep my back dry.

The news now certainly seems swell. We're doing swell in Europe and the Phillipine campaign is coming along even better. This morning we got a broadcast from the Phillipines. I guess about the first thing they did was open a radio station to let the world at large know that we're really there. There's hopes of my not being here for too very long a time.

I do so want to get back to you Darling. To be with you and to love you. When I do get back to you there'll be no more separations like this - ever. I just want to be with you. I love you so very much and realize it more with each passing day. It's just like living a life that's only half complete when I'm not with you. When you're with me, sharing whatever we do life is wonderful. I hope it will be wonderful again soon. At least you know that I think of you always.

Some new fellows on board are very sick right now. The ship is doing quite a bit of rocking since we took some stuff off and it rides higher out of the water. One of the new fellows came aboard, rusted down to eat and came back up on deck with a very satisfied smile. After a couple of minutes of watching the horizon bob around he made a mad dash for the rail and

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was very sick. I felt very sorry for him because I remembered my first few days on here. Now I'm afraid I'll get land sick when I go ashore. I won't be used to not having a deck pitch and roll under my feet.

Saturday, October 28, 1944


Sweetheart,

I love you tremendously. I wish I had you with me right now. I want so much to just put my arms around you and hold you close once more. It would be wonderful wouldn't it. Some of the fellows aboard are going back to the States - lucky boys. I'd give anything to be going back there with them. Maybe Arthur will be home for Christmas after all. I hope so. Mom would be so pleased if he was. She does so much worrying about him. She's probably got her hands full with two of us to worry about instead of one. I don't think she is as worried about me because she doesn't think there's much use, I usually get the breaks anyway. You just follow her example and don't think for a minute that I am in any danger because I will always take very good care of your boy friend. With my luck I am very sure that I will get something quite good over here. Just leave it to me Darling. You don't want to worry yourself into having grey hair before I get back do you? Not that I'd love you any less but then people might think that you were my mother instead of thinking, as they do now, that I am your father.

This morning I shaved and used some of my newly bought shaving lotion. I feel a lot better and cleaner now with a shower, shave, and with my clothes washed. Life is again fairly tolerable.

Last night was really windy. I slept on deck and had a continuous tussle with the wind for possession of my blanket. The wind was fairly cool and felt nice but it did wake me several times. Jack Viren and I have a nice spot under some stairs on the side of the ship. It doesn't rain down on us in the event that we have a rainstorm. There is a water ~~for~~ spout which empties a couple of feet away and splashes a little but isn't very bad. It's a good thing Jack is so short - he's only about 5'2" because if he was any taller the both of us wouldn't fit in there. You'd just about fit there. Hummm! Too bad you're not here, know it?

Say, I asked you once for sizes and measurements so that I could get something for you on your birthday or any other time I want. How about some of these, eh? It'll be hard to get you anything if I don't have them. Send a list starting from your head and going all the beautiful way down to your feet. Why Bunny, I'll swear you're blushing. Come, come, little girl. Don't blush! My interest is purely platonic - like that of an artist with a model at whom he looks as if she were an apple or a piece of statuary - like heck. My interest in you could never be purely platonic, not even slightly platonic, in fact it couldn't be platonic at all. There you go blushing again, but you're smiling too. Very prettily as always.

Some of the fellows here have made themselves metal watch bands. They are very nice and are made from stainless steel. They're made something like this →  WATCH. They look nice and are very good for

this climate. I think I'll make a couple if I have any spare time and can get the materials and tools. Then I can wear it when I get a watch. With all these things I intend to try to do I'm going to be a busy fellow.

There isn't as much room now that we're under way again. We can't stand against the rail when we're moving so this eliminates a lot of the space we had. It won't be much longer though because I'm quite sure we'll reach our destination tomorrow. We're all hoping to get off soon and not lay around a long time waiting for them to unload us. We don't know if we'll stay at our first stop long. I'm inclined to think not but that's merely a guess because nobody knows. I hope they put me in a good outfit when I get there. I'd like to be assigned to a hospital because that's a very good deal from what I can gather talking to the fellows who've been here quite a while. They seem to think the medics are as well off as anyone out here. I hope they're right.

Another bad feature of moving again is that we have to wear our Mae Weats. They're quite a nuisance. When we were in harbor we didn't have to wear them at all. It's like trying to swim with a millstone around your neck.

I'll leave you now Darling. Be a good girl and write to me often. Remember

I love you with all my heart
Freddie